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COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS

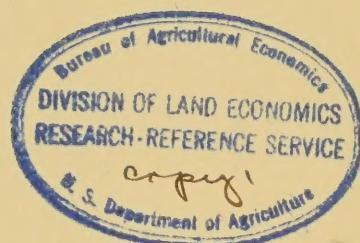
LINCOLN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

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INTRODUCTION

In county planning there is need for the delineation of various kinds of areas. The delineation of land use areas serves an important purpose in describing areas of relatively uniform physical, economic, and social conditions. By the delineation, description, and analysis of land use areas, planning committees gain a sounder basis for making recommendations that will fit particular situations and needs.

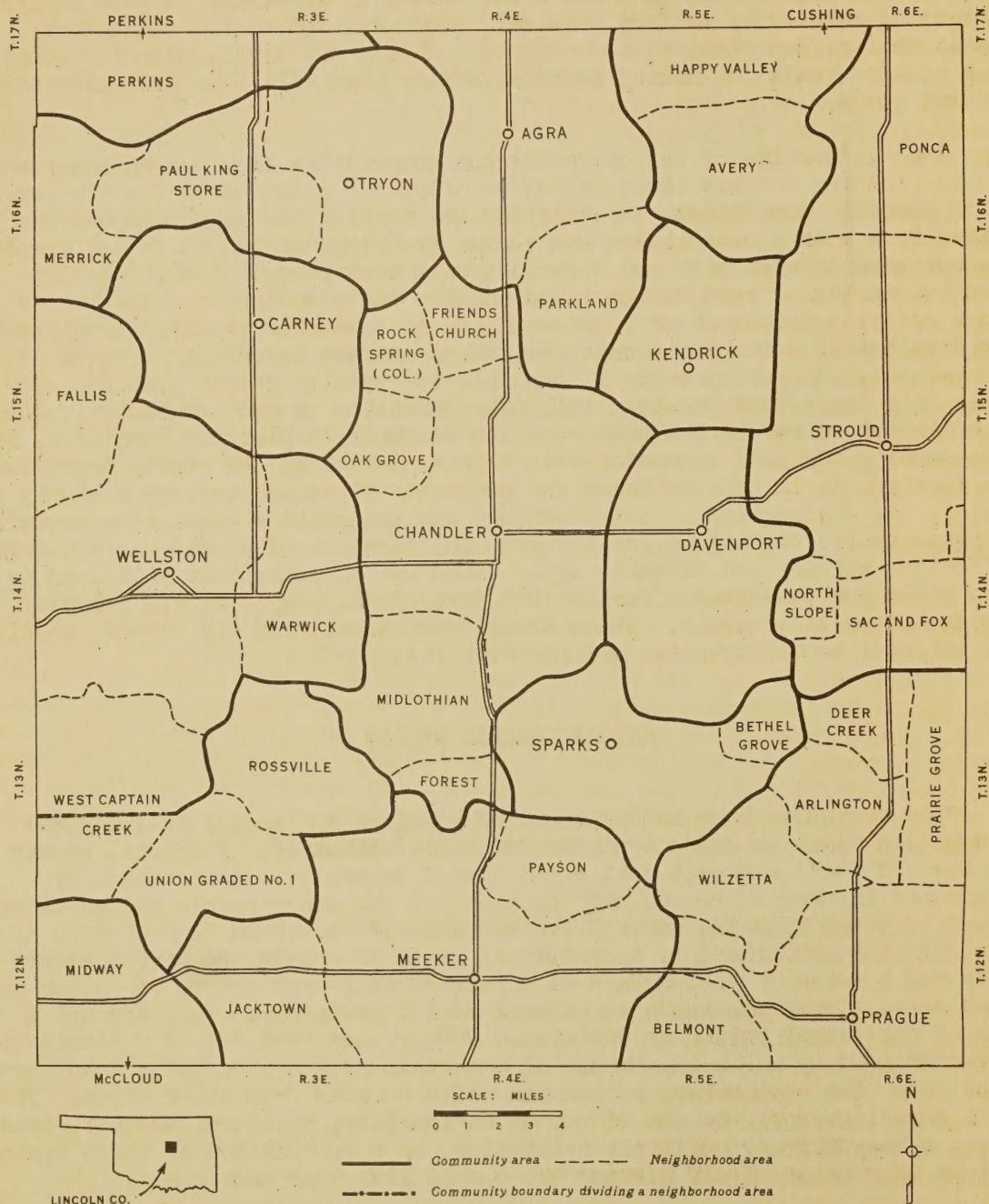
The delineation of neighborhoods and communities also has an important place in planning because it is needed to provide a sound basis for the organization of planning committees. Identifying and mapping the neighborhoods and communities in a county establishes the social groupings within which the people are accustomed to work with and associate with each other. Identification of the boundaries of each neighborhood enables the planning organization to include definite neighborhood representation on community planning committees. Identification of community boundaries, which embrace several contiguous neighborhoods, similarly, makes it possible to organize county planning committees on a basis that provides full representation to each community. Thus, each neighborhood may have a member on its community's planning committee, and each community may have community-wide representation in the county organization, whose function it is to coordinate the community plans and develop a county plan. In brief, the delineation of neighborhoods and communities enables the organization of representative committees and the grouping together of people who can form an effective working and planning unit. And use planning that will lead to action calls for concerted effort on the part of the people in all neighborhoods and communities of a county. These areas, when identified and mapped, should be of interest to all agencies working with farm people.

NATURAL SOCIAL GROUPS

"Why do you go over to Wellston for meetings and social activities?" This question might be asked a person from this community. A typical answer would be: "I don't know--it just seems that I belong over there--that my problems and interests are the same as those of the other people who go there. I'm used to being with the other Wellston people." So it is that a group of people form a neighborhood or community--a group of people who have a common loyalty and a sense of "belonging" to a geographical area and to the other people of that area. These are known as natural social groupings. They are not a result of any formal ruling or decision. Rather they grow out of a combination of circumstances by which the people of a certain area are accustomed to associate and work with each other, rather than with persons from other areas. These natural social groups grow out of common nationality, religion, schools, trade centers, clubs, farm or political activities, or a combination of these factors. Sometimes they occur merely because the people live near each other.

These natural social groupings can be classified into neighborhoods and communities. Both have their basis in the common feeling of belonging together. The geographical area included in a community or neighborhood might be called a natural area.

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS
LINCOLN COUNTY, OKLA.



The Neighborhood

Neighborhood groups are usually smaller than communities. The people know each other better--visit back and forth, exchange work, help out when there is illness, borrow and loan tools and equipment, and share each other's joys and burdens. Frequently there is a feeling that "my neighborhood is better than yours." It is from this sense of sharing and helping and the feeling of local pride that the neighborhood gains strength. Neighborhood ties may be intensified by kinship, sameness of religious beliefs, common national heritage, or geographic boundaries.

Certainly this feeling of unity among people within a neighborhood, together with frequent face-to-face contacts, is important to land use planning organizations. "Yes, Mr. Smith lives in this township. He is a committee member from the township. We don't see him over here much, though, because he does not live in our neighborhood." But if Mr. Smith were in the neighborhood and was the neighborhood representative on the community land use planning committee, many more people would hear of the activities at committee meetings than would be true if the neighborhood had no representative. Mr. Smith would be likely to see and talk with his neighbors about land use planning, would discover their opinions and be advised as to desired courses of action. Thus, the process of land use planning in this neighborhood would be stimulated.

The Community

A group of contiguous neighborhoods--usually with a common trading center, churches, schools, or other institutional activities--form a community. Close associations like those in the neighborhood are not so frequent, but usually the people living in the area are at least acquainted with each other. For this reason they tend to be more willing to meet together to discuss common problems than they are to meet with people from outside the area. In other words, more effective planning work can probably be accomplished by recognizing the importance of the community to the people who compose it. If communities committees are made up of farmer representatives from each neighborhood in the community, members feel "at home" and are willing to cooperate in a common program.

PROCEDURE IN DELINEATING NATURAL GROUPINGS IN LINCOLN COUNTY

The first step in the Lincoln County survey was to obtain base maps of the county from the State Highway Department, showing roads, villages, schools, churches, rural dwellings, and other landmarks. A meeting was then held with leaders of agricultural agencies and other public officials, including the County Agent and his assistant, the AAA officials, the Home Demonstration Agent, representatives of the Farm Security Administration, the Superintendent of Education, and county planning and AAA committeemen. The nature and purpose of the work was explained and these people were asked to indicate on the map the areas commonly thought to be either communities or neighborhoods. In the preliminary meeting no attempt was made to define accurately the boundaries of these areas. A light red line was drawn about them and the centers of interest, if any, were indicated, together with the name commonly used in designating them.

The same group supplied the names of people in each community who could be expected to cooperate in furnishing more detailed information. This list contained the names and addresses of the officers of farmers' organizations, officers of Home Demonstration Clubs, civic leaders, political leaders, citizens of long residence in their respective communities, AAA committeemen; in short, the names of all persons who could be supposed to be well-informed about their local neighborhoods and communities. The obtaining of a complete and comprehensive list was important, for it often happened that one or more of the informants were not available for interview at the time of the visit to his neighborhood.

The interviewers proceeded to one of the areas thus roughly designated and talked with one of the listed persons. In the process of explaining the object of the visit, this person became sufficiently familiar with the concepts of neighborhood and community so that his answers to questions were pertinent to the purposes of the survey. After identifying his neighborhood by name, the informant was asked to name the family living on the road leading north from his own home which he considered to be about the farthest one belonging to and sharing in most of the activities of his neighborhood. This residence was circled on the map, noted as No. 1, and the occupant's name listed on a separate sheet. The same procedure was followed on all roads and crossroads in the neighborhood and the residence of each border family was likewise circled, given a key number and the family's name listed. A line was then drawn connecting these points. Thus the neighborhood boundary was tentatively established.

After the mapping was completed, additional information about the neighborhood was obtained. Through informal conversation, many of the following questions were answered without having been specifically asked. 1/

What services are offered in the area, such as schools, churches, stores, medical services, social organizations, recreational facilities, etc.?

What is the approximate area of the neighborhood and about how many families live in it?

What is the chief center of interest?

What are some of the things people in this area do together?

Is there any evidence of cooperation or concerted activity?

What is the predominant type of farm land?

Are many of the people in this area related?

What is there about this neighborhood that sets it off and makes it distinct from any other?

1/ To facilitate recording of notes, an outline organized by subject matter was used. This is included in the appendix.

Why do people consider this a neighborhood?

Is there considerable informal activity such as visiting, loafing, parties, exchange of work, etc.?

The conversation was then directed at communities, and data regarding the following were secured:

With what other neighborhoods does this neighborhood have the most association?

To what community center does your neighborhood belong?

Why does your neighborhood feel more strongly attached to this than to some other community?

For what things do you go to the community center?

What other adjoining neighborhoods have a feeling of belonging to the same community?

What larger center do you most frequently visit?

What is the history of school consolidation or the establishment of bus routes to the community center?

Is the feeling of belonging to this community growing stronger or weaker?

Do any conflicts or antagonisms exist between this neighborhood and other neighborhoods?

In what community center would the people of this neighborhood prefer to attend farm meetings?

In concluding the conversation the informant was asked to indicate roughly what he considered the limits of the community area. Thus, a conception of the community in question and of its component neighborhoods began to emerge. The community boundary, however, was not finally determined until all the neighborhoods within the county had been delineated.

The interviewers then traveled to an adjoining neighborhood, located an informant and repeated the same procedure. In this case the work was easier because part of the boundary line common to the two neighborhoods had already been established. As other adjacent neighborhoods were visited and mapped, these common boundaries became more frequent. As this occurred each informant's opinion was obtained as to whether or not the boundary established in previous interviews was correct. By reference to the keyed numbers on the map, the interviewers were able to check "border" families to see that they had not been claimed by more than one neighborhood. In nearly all cases in Lincoln County, the judgment of the informant was verified. Differences of opinion ordinarily did not involve more than three or four families. When, as infrequently happened,

a severe conflict of opinion occurred involving several families, interviewers either used their own judgment in rating the possible bias of the respective informants, or obtained the opinion of another informant. If these methods failed, interviewers visited a family or two living among the group in question. The last method was found to be the most satisfactory procedure in dealing with the areas in doubt.

When all neighborhoods in the county had been delineated, the marking of community boundaries was undertaken. In some instances it was found that the community itself constituted one neighborhood and contained no others. By the time this final step in the delineation process was ready to be completed, the interviewers had a conceptual picture of the community pattern for the whole county, based on their personal experiences which accumulated as each successive neighborhood was delineated. Supporting data were contained in the notes recorded after each neighborhood interview. With use of these notes, community boundaries were drawn on the map to include the whole of each constituent neighborhood, 1/ the member-families of which had their predominant associational patterns within the community concerned. Where more than one neighborhood constituted a community, on the final map the community resembled a cluster of neighborhoods. 2/

DESCRIPTION OF LINCOLN COUNTY

A brief description of the county itself and of some factors affecting its settlement and development may contribute to an understanding of some of the problems involved. The county is rectangular, and contains 959 square miles. Much of the land is sharply rolling and is covered with scrub oak, and most of the creek bottoms are subject to sudden overflow. The soil is peculiarly susceptible to damage by wind and water, and erosion has taken a severe toll. The original settlement of the area occurred sporadically as the various Indian lands were thrown open for settlement by the "rush" method. There was little homogeneity among the original settlers; they flocked from all parts of the country and each brought his own type of farming method with him, sometimes with unfortunate results.

The railroads came through the county some 10 to 15 years after the initial settlement. Now, because of the county's declining agriculture and the loss of freight and passenger revenues, some of the railroads have abandoned their lines, rails, ties, depots, and rights of way. Later came the oil boom, inducing a speculation in leases and royalties and inflation in values which made it difficult to buy land for purely agricultural purposes. Some areas experienced a sudden increase of activity and population, only to suffer a loss

1/ With the exception of West Captain Creek neighborhood. See p. 14.

2/ See publication: Alabama Rural Communities, A Study of Chilton County; Irwin T. Sanders and Douglas Ensminger; Alabama College, 1940.

equally as sudden some 6 months later. The percentage of tenancy climbed higher and higher, and mobility of the population increased. Flood, hail, drought, and dust alternated and, coupled with the growth of mechanized farming, caused an unprecedented out-migration. The heavy tax burden has prevented the proper maintenance of the many miles of dirt roads. After heavy rains, some areas are practically marooned until the sun dries up the mud enough to render the roads passable. Other settlements are not on the route of the paved highways, and new communities have developed on the main traveled routes.

All of these factors have had and are having their influence on neighborhoods and communities. The closing or abandonment of a road, the washing out of a bridge, the relocation of a highway, the change in ownership of a store, the establishment of a strong church, the consolidation of a school district - any of these may be sufficient to shift the boundaries of a neighborhood or to alter the strength of its allegiance to the larger community to which it is now part. These are mentioned here to indicate that natural social grouping boundary lines in a county less than 50 years old are not permanent and that the present community and neighborhood delineations probably will not remain a true representation of conditions for 10 or even for 5 years. It is believed that the areas shown on the accompanying map adequately represent the present natural groupings of the residents of Lincoln County and that they are sufficiently accurate for any purpose for which their use is contemplated. Those who use them are reminded, however, to be alert in recognizing changes whenever they occur.

WELLSTON COMMUNITY

This community area is on the west central edge of the county. Highway No. 66, the chief traffic artery between Oklahoma City and Tulsa, has a 1-mile by-pass over which motorists who wish to do so may detour through the business district of the village rather than continuing past on the highway. Farm land in this area is well above the average of the county, much of it being in the fertile Deep Fork bottoms. The village with its population of approximately 650 furnishes practically all the services commonly found in a place of that size. There are four active churches, two with full-time services, and the other two half-time. All the churches have Sunday Schools, and the customary women's and youth's auxiliary groups. The community has a good consolidated high school, and bus routes bring in students from the adjoining areas of Fallis, Warwick, and West Captain Creek. This school supports an active Parent-Teachers Association. There are a flourishing Home Demonstration Club and a branch of the Farmers' Union. Several of the fraternal organizations are represented by lodges. In the last year a One Seed Variety Cotton Club has started auspiciously. In the summer a huge Old Settlers Picnic is held and community singing conventions meet periodically. The relationships between farm and village people appear to be established on a cordial basis and the community seems well integrated socially.

Neighborhoods within the Wellston Community, other than the central Wellston neighborhood, are Warwick, Fallis, and West Captain Creek.

WARWICK

Warwick lies about 4 miles to the east of Wellston, is on Highway 66, and on the same railroad as Wellston, and its farm land is of the same general nature. Approximately 80 families live in the neighborhood and the population of the village center is about 200. A general store, garage, cotton gin, and grist mill are about all the services offered. Focal points of interest and activity are the school and the two churches. High school students are taken to Wellston by bus. An excellent six-grade elementary school is maintained, and plans are now being formulated for a new school building if Work Projects Administration assistance can be obtained. The school has competitive athletic activities which arouse much interest. Further moves by Wellston to absorb the Warwick school would be vigorously opposed. Both the churches, Methodist and Pentecostal, have full-time services and good attendance. An active Home Demonstration Club usually attracts 30 members to monthly meetings. Warwick is an old settled village and many of its people have been resident there for many years. This possibly explains its high degree of integration. Warwick is a splendid example of a well-marked neighborhood, distinctly an entity in itself, with its geographical limits quite accurately definable but, at the same time, an integral part of the larger Wellston Community.

FALLIS

The village of Fallis is 6 miles northwest of Wellston and within a mile of the west county line. The farm land is too far from the creek bottoms for a high degree of fertility and is characterized as "poorer than average." More than half the residents of the area are Negroes and four-fifths of the farms are operated by tenants. The village has two white churches, both holding half-time services, and three Negro churches; none on a full-time basis. There are both white and Negro elementary schools, and high school students go to Wellston by bus. There are three general stores and one garage, but the village has deteriorated in importance. Vacant buildings are more numerous than tenanted ones. The informant reported, "This place is doomed to extinction before many years." There are no good roads except the one to Wellston. This accentuates the isolation.

WEST CAPTAIN CREEK

This neighborhood area adjoins Wellston on the south and covers an area approximately 6 miles north and south, and 3 to 5 miles wide along the west county line. It is traversed by the creek from which it takes its name and much of the land is in fertile bottom land and second bottoms. The area has no village. The majority of the residents are German and most of them are landowners. There are no Negroes. The chief center of interest is the St. Paul Lutheran Church, which has a resident pastor and holds full-time preaching services. Average attendance is reported as approximately 120, and part of the preaching service is held in the German language. For the non-German residents, the social center is the elementary eight-grade school; high school students attend at Wellston. Farm meetings are held at the school, but are poorly attended by the German element. No conflicts or antagonisms exist, but the Germans associate together almost exclusively and maintain their own interests through their own church affiliation.

So far they have shown only a passive interest in farm programs and have made considerable resistance to modern innovations in farm management.

As can be seen by the accompanying map, this is an instance in which a community boundary line cuts across a neighborhood. Practically the only good road in the area runs from north to south and many of the east to west roads are not opened. The residents of the northern part of the neighborhood go chiefly to Wellston, whereas the people in the southern part go elsewhere. 1/

MEEKER COMMUNITY

The center of this community is the village of Meeker. It is located in the southern part of the county on an east-west paved highway which is intersected within its corporate limits by the chief highway extending the length of the county from north to south. Meeker Community covers an area of approximately 7 by 14 miles and besides the central neighborhood contains two other well-defined neighborhoods, Jacktown and Payson. The population of the village is approximately 600 and numerous services are offered. It has four churches, three with resident pastors and full-time services, and all with Sunday Schools and a full complement of auxiliary organizations. A consolidated high school has an enrollment of 130 and occupies a new building. School consolidation has been in effect about 10 years. Although the village has no farmers' organization, it does have a Home Demonstration Club and the school has a 4-H Club. Odd Fellows and Masons are both represented, the latter having a new lodge hall. Meeker is 14 miles from Chandler, the county seat, and an equal distance from Shawnee, a city of 25,000 in the adjoining county to the south. Its chief economic ties are with Shawnee and, except for county or court business, Meeker residents travel to Chandler infrequently. Aside from churches, school, and organizations, one of the chief integrating factors of the community is its universal interest in athletics, chiefly baseball. Meeker is the home of two big league baseball players of national prominence and the new athletic field has an elaborate arched entrance with the inscription "Hubbell-Winford Field." Signs on the highways in all four directions from the village announce "Meeker - the home of Carl Hubbell." Meeker may be described as a "strong" community with a well-defined trade area, having an intense community consciousness, with pride in its civic achievements.

JACKTOWN

The Jacktown neighborhood is six miles west of Meeker, on the same paved highway. The land to the south, extending past the county line, is regarded as above the average, with cotton and small grain as the chief crops. It becomes poorer toward the uplands in the northern part. The neighborhood center has two small stores and a garage, but for nearly all other services the people go to Meeker. Jacktown supports one church, a Methodist Union Chapel. The church has services twice a month and sponsors a Sunday School and other auxiliary organizations. Jacktown has two small elementary schools. The high school students

attend school at Meeker. There is a struggling Farmers' Union with a membership of about 15. The Home Demonstration Club was disbanded this year. The two stores provide a convenient place for buying work clothes, gasoline, car repairs, etc., and for considerable informal visiting and loafing, pitching horseshoes, etc., but there are no strong integrating factors. Meeker and Shawnee draw most of the Jacktown residents both for church and for trading purposes.

PAYSON

The Payson neighborhood is northeast of Meeker, three miles north on a paved highway and two miles east on a gravel road. Like Fallis, in Wellston Community, it has only a shadow of its former influence. It still supports a church and school, but the proprietor of the one remaining general store says that his trade is only for the emergency goods which the residents forgot to buy while in Meeker. High school students attend high school at Meeker and many people attend church there. No other services are available. No social organizations are active, and Payson's existence as a neighborhood is the remnant of an outgrown loyalty to its past.

PRAGUE COMMUNITY

The Prague Community occupies the entire southeastern part of the county. It is roughly 100 square miles and contains six neighborhoods. It undoubtedly is the most productive and progressive community in the county. The village of Prague increased its population to 1,470 in the 1940 Census and registered the highest percentage of gain shown by any village in the county. In addition to supplying all the services customarily found in a village of this size, Prague has three cotton gins, a cotton oil mill, dentists, doctors, and a hospital. For this reason, and because of the loyalty of its trade area to the trade center, the people seldom visit larger centers and it remains to a great degree self-sufficient.

The population throughout the community area is largely Bohemian. The percentage of farm ownership is the highest of any community in the county. An active P. T. A., a Home Demonstration Club, and two Bohemian clubs are largely attended by residents from the entire area. Many fraternal organizations are represented as well as a vigorous chamber of commerce.

Evidences of cooperative activity in this community are numerous. At the time of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Germany, the sum of \$1,900 was raised and sent for the relief of refugees. When the county fair, customarily held at Chandler, was dormant for lack of financial assistance, the Prague community promoted a tri-county fair of its own and raised \$1,000 in cash in one afternoon to guarantee its share of the cost. Fairs, festivals, carnivals, sales days, holiday celebrations, and the like are frequently sponsored to bring in the rural residents. The factors of nationality, kinship, and common cultural background combine to integrate this area socially.

PRAIRIE GROVE

This small neighborhood tributary to Prague occupies a strip along the eastern county line, approximately 2 miles wide and 6 miles long. There is no concentration of population, and the focal point of interest is the rural Lutheran Church which holds services twice a month and has an average attendance of 50. Prairie Grove has no stores and there is little evidence that this area would constitute a separate neighborhood except that the settlement is chiefly of German families, many of whom are related. There are two small elementary schools and the few high school pupils attend at Prague.

ARLINGTON

Adjoining Prairie Grove on the west, 6 miles north on the paved highway from Prague, is an area of about 10 square miles which contains approximately 65 families. Arlington was established before the rise of Bohemian Prague. Like other small trading posts on a good highway, its influence is rapidly waning. It has two churches, a Methodist and a Pentecostal; the latter enjoys the greater membership and attendance. There is a small elementary school; high school pupils go to Prague by bus or car. Three small stores exist to take care of emergency purchases but no other services are available. A Farmers' Union was formerly active but retains a skeleton organization only to take care of the insurance features; no meetings are held. The Odd Fellows and Masons moved their membership to Prague only this year. The significance of Arlington as a social center is decreasing.

WILZETTA

Little is left to designate this as a strong neighborhood. The area has three small elementary schools, but many of the students attend at Prague by bus. A store and a cotton gin comprise the services offered. No church is operating. A Sunday School functioned at one of the schools until recently, when the classes moved to Prague, six miles away.

DEER CREEK

This settlement of approximately 30 families along the paved highway 10 miles north of Prague, represents the extreme limits of Prague's influence to the north. The neighborhood formerly was held together by common membership in the rural Baptist Church which still holds services twice a month. More recently, Dean's store, some distance from the church, has become a social as well as a trading center and some people come there from the adjacent neighborhoods of Prairie Grove and Bethel Grove. The settlement is practically equidistant from Prague, Strand, and Davenport. Trade is divided among these three larger centers, but it probably should be classified as belonging more to the Prague Community than to any other.

BELMONT

This area extends along the southern two tiers of sections west and south of Prague, extending into Pottawatomie County. It includes some forty-odd families. Elementary and high school pupils attend school at Prague. The centers of social activity are the one general store and the Church of God. The church holds preaching services twice monthly, but has Sunday School, prayer meetings, and auxiliary meetings weekly with a heavy attendance. No other organizations are functioning and the chief integrating factor in this small settlement is a high degree of kinship between residents, nearly all of them Bohemian. Belmont has a high percentage of farm ownership and no Negro families.

STROUD COMMUNITY

The Stroud Community is an area approximately 5 miles wide and 13 miles long, along the east central part of the county. Its influence extends well into Creek County. The village of some 1,900 inhabitants is located on Highway 66 and at the intersection of the paved north-south highway. Its trade territory and sphere of influence extends practically to the county line on the north, where it takes in the Ponca neighborhood, and 6 miles to the south, where the small neighborhoods of North Slope and Sac-Fox Agency are tributary to it.

This community has a large and active consolidated school and busses bring in high school pupils from all the neighborhoods above-mentioned. The village has seven churches, five of which have resident pastors and maintain full-time services and a full array of auxiliary groups. The chief fraternal and patriotic organizations are functioning and there are many representative farm organizations. The village provides excellent services. Merchants are progressive in providing fairs and sales days to attract the rural residents and frequently feature low priced items so that Stroud is known as one of the best trade centers in the county. There has been and still is considerable oil activity in the area and some new production is being brought in. Farm land is classified as fair or possibly slightly better than the average. Cotton and small grains are the leading crops. Here is an example of the importance of a trade center as a community center.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY

This neighborhood lies immediately south of the Stroud area and covers roughly 20 square miles, extending to the county line on the east. It derives its name from the fact that it was the site of the Government Indian agency for many years. The buildings formerly housing the agency have been abandoned for more than 15 years, and the buildings are in an advanced state of decay. The 800 acres surrounding the buildings are not in cultivation this year. The neighborhood has a small general store and an elementary school, but no church. An abandoned church building is reported to have been taken over this year by a group which intends to establish a Church of God congregation. This community is closely linked to the Stroud Community.

NORTH SLOPE

This small neighborhood is six miles southeast of Stroud, contains from 25 to 30 families, and covers about five square miles. It has an elementary school, but the chief center of activity is the old Baptist Church. This church supports full-time services, although its membership has decreased to less than 50. The general store has now been abandoned and there are no trading facilities. Some high school pupils go to school at Davenport, but more attend at Stroud. There seem to be more associations with Stroud than with Davenport. A small Home Demonstration Club, with average attendance of 10 to 12, still functions chiefly because of an active leadership. The only visible factor tending to establish this as a separate neighborhood is the traditional loyalty to the old church,

PONCA

This area of approximately 30 square miles takes its name from the township which lies in the northeast corner of the county. The farm land is rolling upland rated poorer than average. The recent tendency in land use has been toward pastures and livestock production, rather than grain. One-fifth of the residents in the area are Indians. There is an Indian Mission Church, an Apostolic Church, and the Sunnyside Sunday School. None of these exerts a strong influence and the majority of the residents go to church at Stroud. Busses come up each Sunday morning from two of the Stroud churches and haul from 40 to 60 people to the village. There are several small elementary schools and high school pupils attend in Stroud. One small combined filling station and store is open. Most of the trading is done in Stroud, although some patronage is given Cushing merchants. Although the territory is thinly settled, a high degree of kinship exists and practically all the residents belong in some fashion to the Wright, Gooch, or Ferris family. There is no population concentration in the area.

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY

The village of Davenport, containing slightly over 1,000 inhabitants, is situated along Highway 66, about six miles equidistant from Chandler and Stroud. With larger centers crowding its trade area both on the east and west, it draws trade chiefly from the north and south. It is supported somewhat by the area to the southeast, but has no neighborhoods tributary to it or which form part of its community area.

The village has seven churches, two with resident pastors and full-time services. The other five operate on a half-time basis. All have Sunday Schools and the usual women's and youth's auxiliary organizations. U. G. #3 school district has been consolidated for 12 years and maintains an excellent high school with a program of competitive athletics, plays, and entertainments. It is important as a social center. A P. T. A., a Home Demonstration Club and many fraternal organizations are represented. In services the village offers a number of general stores, garages, cotton gin, a doctor, but no dentist. It has two small gasoline plants but the oil industry is much less active than formerly and no new production is being brought in.

Although the competition of Stroud and Chandler for Davenport's trade territory is strong, the residents of the community remain exceptionally loyal.

KENDRICK COMMUNITY

This area is approximately 10 miles northeast of Chandler, 8 miles northwest of Stroud, and 6 miles north of Davenport. The village has a population of slightly less than 300, but is a remarkably active and progressive community. There are 5 churches, 2 with full-time services, and all have weekly Sunday Schools. A good high school, which brings in some pupils from Parkland, has a good program of athletic and recreational activities. A Home Demonstration Club is active. Odd Fellows and Masons, with their auxiliary women's groups, use the same hall for a meeting place. Two general stores, a garage, a grist mill, and a post office comprise the services available.

There is little association with Davenport, despite its nearness. When done away from the village, trading occurs usually in Stroud or Chandler.

There may be some doubt as to whether Kendrick is a community in itself, or a neighborhood allied to Stroud. The fact that it is the center of a good trade territory and that it ties the rural residents closely to it through churches, schools, and organizations would tend to characterize it as a separate community.

TRYON COMMUNITY

This community lies 15 miles northeast of Chandler and embraces a strip from 4 to 6 miles wide, extending 10 miles west to the county line. It contains two other neighborhoods, Paul King's Store, and Merrick. The village itself has a population of 300 but offers services more adequate than the usual village of that size. There are three general stores, two garages, two cotton gins, a grist mill, a moving picture house, and a doctor and dentist. Both the Home Demonstration Club and Farmers Union meet monthly and two fraternal organizations are likewise active. Three churches are supported, although none provide more than half-time services. An exceptionally strong and active high school brings in pupils from a large area and is constantly canvassing for more transfers to it.

The limits of Tryon community are largely governed by the roads, which extend its influence to the west because of a main traveled east and west road running through and connecting with Highway 18 to the south. There is much competition with the Carney Community lying to the southwest, and this at times flares into open antagonism. Each has been known to accuse the other of encroaching upon its trade territory and of using unscrupulous trade practices. Rivalry between the high schools is great and occasionally athletic contests have ended in free-for-all fighting. Tryon is the older established community, having had a railroad since 1903, and jealously guards its supremacy as a trade center. Its merchants are alert and progressive and make every effort to satisfy the needs of their trade territory.

PAUL KINGS STORE

Often known as Paul Kings Corner, this settlement is an excellent illustration of the growth of a neighborhood feeling because of a single factor, a minor trading facility. There is neither a concentration of population nor a functioning church - nothing except a crossroads store - and two small elementary schools. High school pupils go by bus to Tryon or Carney, and the 60 to 75 families in the territory attend church at one or the other of the two villages. The storekeeper is generally well liked and renders exceptional service for such a small business. People gradually began to use the store as a meeting place for informal visiting and loafing and because of such associations a neighborhood consciousness has developed. Many things may happen to disturb its growth; a change in the road system which would leave it off the traveled road; a change in ownership of the store which might impair its popularity as a meeting place; a competitor offering better prices or services. As conditions remain at present, the people are developing a genuine "we" feeling and the area is recognized as a neighborhood by those familiar with the county.

MERRICK

The Merrick neighborhood is on the western edge of the county, 8 miles west of Paul Kings Store, with the village center located on the county line. The land is spotty and may be classed as predominantly poor. The decline of the village dates from the time of the removal of the railroad and has been accelerated by the condition of the roads. Practically no passable roads run either north or south from the village and the only available way out even in dry weather is over a poor road running east to Tryon. One general store still remains. A Christian Union Church with about 60 members holds services twice a month. The center of activity is the eighth grade elementary school which holds plays and other entertainments. A school bus takes the few high school pupils to Tryon and the neighborhood is linked to that village more closely than to any other. A small Home Demonstration Club is functioning and an old Anti-Horse Thief Association holds occasional meetings at the school and assists in the enforcement of law and order through deputies from both counties. Some trade goes to Meridian, 9 miles west, but the stronger ties are with Tryon on the east.

ROSSVILLE COMMUNITY

Banking, marketing of crops, medical services, and purchasing of durable goods by Rossville residents are divided almost equally between four trade centers. No allegiance is shown to one more than the other. As the north and south roads are better than those east and west in the Rossville area, there is perhaps a tendency for more trading to be done at Wellston and McCloud than at Meeker and Chandler, although prospective improvement of the road to the east may eventually influence a stronger economic tie to Chandler. A store furnishes most of the ordinary wants and serves as a social center. The Union Church with a new church building takes care of the religious needs of the several denominations; educational needs are adequately served by the U. G. No. 1 school and a Home Demonstration Club is active. Ordinarily a center of such small influence

would be found to be tributary to a larger community, but this situation apparently does not exist at Rossville. It may consequently be termed a community in its own right, with the neighborhood of U. G. No. 1 and part of West Captain Creek associated with it, but not tributary.

U. G. No. 1

This neighborhood, which takes its name from the old established school, is five miles southwest of Rossville. There is little concentration of population. The center of social activity is the consolidated school which recently acquired some new territory and is constructing a modern building to accommodate the enlarged attendance. A Presbyterian Church holds semimonthly services and two other denominations hold services in the school building. A Home Demonstration Club functions, but no stores or other services are available. Much of the trade goes to McCloud and some to Meeker, but the neighborhood cannot be regarded as tributary to either. It is difficult to determine whether it should be shown as a separate community or as part of Rossville Community.

WEST CAPTAIN CREEK 1/

This refers only to the south part of the section, as the north part is tied definitely to Wellston. There is no concentration of population and the chief factor which would tend to include it in this area is that of school attendance. The population, as has been reported under Wellston Community, is largely split between the German and non-German residents. Residents would find it satisfactory and convenient to attend meetings at Union Graded School.

SPARKS COMMUNITY

Sparks Community includes an area of approximately 30 square miles, centered by the village of Sparks. The land is classified as "fair uplands" with some good bottom lands in the east portion and tenancy is about that of the county average. The village has three general stores, a drug store, hardware store, garage, and medical services. There are four churches, two of which have women's and youth's auxiliary organizations. There is an elementary school and a four-year high school which sponsors a Parent-Teachers Association. In addition to the Home Demonstration Club, five fraternal organizations are represented. These account for much of the social activities. Dances, socials, and parties are frequent and draw their attendance from the entire area. Like some other communities in the county, Sparks is relatively remote from main highways. Several once-occupied business buildings tell of a more prosperous past.

1/ See p. 4.

BETHEL GROVE

This is a small neighborhood of about 30 families whose primary tie is their local church. Though residents have considerable communication with Prague and Stroud, Sparks is their community center.

AGRA COMMUNITY

Agra Community is at the north end of the county, 14 miles north of Chandler. A part of its territory extends into Payne County. A paved road connects it with Cushing, and many of its economic ties are with that place. New paving on Highway 18 south to Chandler is now being completed and may weaken this influence. The village has a railroad, four stores, a garage, a cotton gin, and one of the few banks in the northern part of the county. It has two churches, one of which has full-time services. Both have Sunday Schools and women's and youth's auxiliaries. It has its own accredited high school, a Home Demonstration Club, and Farmers' Union, with three fraternal organizations represented. The bank has an interest in and influences much of the commercial activity, as well as having personal contact with a large proportion of the community residents. It is a progressive and highly individualistic community and has as a tributary the neighborhood of Parkland.

PARKLAND

This area lies three miles south of Agra and two miles east of the main north and south highway which is now being paved. At one time this was a prosperous little settlement, but it has deteriorated greatly. All that is left is a store and filling station on what was once a busy street. An Apostolic Church has weekly services with a large attendance. There is an eighth grade elementary school. High school pupils attend school at Kendrick by bus. No organizations are represented and the church is the focal point of interest. Many of the residents have been working on the W. P. A. paving project during the last year and its nearing completion will present economic problems to most of them. There are many school, church, and other social ties with Kendrick but the trade and banking facilities indicate that this neighborhood is tributary to Agra more than to any other community.

CARNEY COMMUNITY

Carney is an exceptionally progressive community, but has no tributary neighborhoods. The entire area was largely settled by people from the same part of Arkansas and the degree of kinship is extremely high. This has resulted in an exceptional degree of solidarity. The village has several general stores, garages, a cotton gin, and even a weekly theater. There are four churches, three of which hold full-time services, an eight grade elementary school, and a consolidated high school. Besides the Home Demonstration Club and Farmers' Union, four fraternal organizations are represented, as well as a Boy Scout troop. The community has a great degree of civic pride and there is much competition with the neighboring community of Tryon. Carney residents accuse the Tryon people of attempting to consolidate their school.

AVERY COMMUNITY

The community area, of which the village of Avery is the center, is 4 miles from the north county line. It is designated as a separate community since there is no evidence that it is tributary to any other community. Like other villages, it has lost much of its population and prestige. Only one general store remains. There is an eight grade elementary school but for the last 5 years high school students have attended at Agra by bus. The community has three churches, two of which support full-time services and Sunday Schools, but no other organizations exist except a 4-H Club in the school. The only good road in the area is the one north into Cushing, and practically all the ties are to that point. A small neighborhood to the north called Happy Valley cannot be regarded as tributary to Avery. Both of these could be designated with some justification as neighborhoods in the Cushing community.

CHANDLER COMMUNITY

As the county seat and largest village in the county, it is to be expected that this community should have the largest area of influence. It is centrally located, has fair railroad facilities. The two chief highways of the county, one a transcontinental traffic artery, intersect within the city limits. All the county business of tax collections, law enforcement and judiciary attract the attendance of most of the county residents from time to time, and the activities of the Federal agencies likewise draw their clients frequently. Even with these advantageous factors, the gain in population of the village has been only 1 percent in the last decade, and in the economic competition with the progressive villages in the eastern part of the county, Chandler is unable to do much more than hold its own. For the sale of durable goods, its trade territory is circumscribed by Oklahoma City on the west, Cushing on the north, and Shawnee on the south. As in many other county seats, merchants have been inclined to assume that, because of the town's political importance and strategic location, they were entitled to the loyalty and support of the contiguous trade territory. They have not put forth as great efforts as competitive trade centers less favorably situated. A newly paved highway to the north and the planned improvement of those to the south and west will facilitate transportation and create the opportunity for cultivating favorable trade relations with areas which have heretofore been attracted elsewhere. The basis of the prosperity of the town is strictly as a trade center. There are no industrial opportunities or recreational facilities which might be exploited. It is evident that Chandler's prosperity will be conditioned largely by the economic position of agriculture within its trade territory.

A detailed list of the services, organizations, and institutions offered in the community would seem unnecessary. It is sufficient to note that they are as complete as are found in most county seat towns of 2,700 population. A splendid consolidated school draws pupils by bus from a large area and sponsors a wide variety of athletic and recreational activities; all the religious denominations are represented, most of them with resident pastors and full-time services; and social, patriotic, and business organizations function at various levels of efficiency.

Because of the competition of Wellston on the west and Davenport and Stroud on the east, the Chandler Community area has developed largely to the north and south and comprises a territory approximately eight miles wide and 15 miles long, lying virtually in the center of the county. There are five tributary neighborhoods, Forest, Midlothian, Oak Grove, Rock Spring, and Friends Church.

FOREST

This is a poorly defined area of only a few square miles lying 8 miles south of Chandler on paved highway No. 18. One small store exists and the focal point of interest and activity is the Union Church which was established almost 50 years ago; but services there are held only irregularly. There is no longer a Home Demonstration Club and no other organizations are represented. A small elementary school functions, but many pupils, including all the high school students, attend at Chandler. While some trading is done at Meeker, 6 miles to the south, practically all ties are to Chandler.

MIDLTHIAN

The two churches, Baptist and Methodist, each with semimonthly services, form the nucleus of this settlement and each attracts an average attendance of 40 to 50. There are two small stores, a cotton gin, and an elementary school. High school attendance is at Chandler. A small Home Demonstration Club functions, but there are no other organizations except for a youth's auxiliary in one of the churches. Nearly all the trading is done at Chandler, six miles away.

OAK GROVE

Six miles northwest of Chandler, 20 or 30 families are grouped around an eight-grade elementary school which was established in 1900, and which acts as a center for many activities. The area has no church, but Sunday School is held weekly in the school building. A women's community club uses the school as headquarters. No stores or other facilities are found in the settlement, and the fairly high degree of integration in evidence is attributable entirely to the loyalty to the school.

ROCK SPRING (Negro)

Rock Spring is a small settlement of Negro families with its own church and school. Because of its isolated position, it may be termed a separate neighborhood. The land is poor, the roads are poor, and no services or facilities are available. All the economic ties are to Chandler.

FRIENDS CHURCH

The nucleus of this settlement of 30 to 40 families is the old Friends (Quaker) Church, situated just off the highway some seven miles north of Chandler.

Some good land exists along the creek bottom and the residents are industrious and self-sufficient. There is considerable resistance to outside influence and the religious beliefs of the sect discourage their participation in secular organizations.

MIDWAY

The Midway neighborhood, consisting of approximately 100 families lies in the extreme southwestern corner of the county and extends into Pottawatomie County. Much of land is along the North Canadian River bottoms, is extremely fertile and is mostly owned by resident operators. Although there are two small combination stores on paved highway No. 62 which crosses it, much of the activity centers about the Friends Church, which is located two miles south on the county line road. This church has a full-time resident pastor and a full complement of youth's and women's auxiliaries. An active branch of the W. C. T. U. is functioning as well as a Home Demonstration Club, and Farmers' Union. A non-organized church holds regular services in one of the two rural school buildings. High school pupils have been attending at McCloud by bus for 15 years and the neighborhood is definitely tributary to that community.

SUMMARY

The delineation of neighborhood and community areas is only the beginning step in understanding the community. The lines bounding these neighborhoods and communities are relatively unimportant. They have been drawn to serve as a basis for organization and the grouping of people together into effective planning units.

We have said very little about the effect of economic stratification, the relatively high degree of mobility, increasing tenancy, and other such factors which, separately or in combination, explain why a given community "clicks" and another appears dead and disinterested in planning.

We have not investigated leadership and the degree of loyalty people have and express toward their leaders. We know, however, that the presence of leadership or the failure to develop capable leaders may mean the difference between success or failure in any community undertaken.

We have done little more than list the churches, schools, and organizations. To have a full appreciation of these organizations and institutions seems essential to a full understanding of how people function in groups.

What we have done represents only the initial step in understanding the community, but that it does give a basis for organizing a representative committee to function in a democratic planning program.

APPENDIX

Field Worker _____

NEIGHBORHOOD QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Neighborhood _____ Community _____ High School _____

2. Number of families in neighborhood _____ Approx. date of settlement _____

3. Check the following services found in the neighborhood:
(If not in neighborhood, designate outside place where service is secured.)a. Church
Denomination _____ Full time pastor? _____ Frequency of preaching _____ Average Attendance _____ Membership _____

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Sunday School
Attendance _____ Membership _____ Have women's auxiliary? _____ Y.P.'s society? _____ Organized S. S. classes _____ Other (specify) _____

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

b. Schools: Elementary _____ High School _____
(1) Activities _____ (1) Activities _____

(2) History of consolidation or establishment of bus routes: _____

c. General store _____ g. Dentist _____ k. Others _____

d. Garage (repairs) _____ h. Grist Mill _____

e. Cotton gin _____ i. Burial ground _____

f. Doctor _____ j. Theatre _____

4. What larger center is most frequently visited? _____

5. Organizations found in the neighborhood:

Frequency of meeting	Average attendance	Frequency of meeting	Average attendance
a. P.T.A. (Comm. Leag.) _____	_____	e. Older youth _____	_____
b. Home Dem. Club _____	_____	Other (specify) _____	_____
c. Grange _____	_____	f. _____	_____
d. Farm bureau _____	_____	g. _____	_____

Neighborhood Questionnaire - 2

6. Chief reasons people give for sticking together as a neighborhood:

- a. Traditional factors _____
- b. Kinship _____
- c. Natural boundaries _____
- d. All belong to same church _____
- e. Loyalty to local school _____
- f. Economic ties _____
- g. Informal activities _____

7. Comment on informal activities (visiting, loafing, parties, exchange work, etc.):

8. Indicate evidences of concerted activity or conflicts:

9. Population: % Negroes _____ % Tenants _____ % Nonfarm _____
(Comment on nonfarm or part-time farm activities):

10. Who owns most of the land:

- a. Individual farmers _____
- b. Landlords: Resident _____
Absentee _____

11. With what other neighborhoods does this neighborhood have most associations:

12. Neighborhood characteristics:

Isolated	Predominately good land _____
Adjacent to important travel route	Predominately poor land _____
	Av. yield of corn per acre _____
Partly industrial	Predominant type of farming _____
Partly agricultural	
Partly fishing	

13. Remarks and comments:

14. Quotations:

1.941 U.S. Bureau of agricultural economics.
P2L63 Community and neighborhood areas. 1941.
Borrower Rec'd Ret'd Borrower Rec'd Ret'd

